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I LOVE TO READ

WITH

BATMAN
WORKBOOK

BATMAN

FEATURING:
SUPERMAN
THE FLASH
AND
BATGIRL



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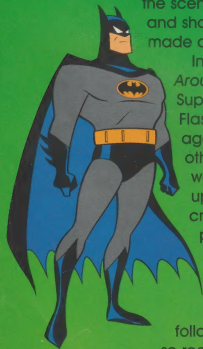


INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of **I Love to Read Batman** in 1997! And what a great gift we've got for you on the front cover—a dynamic **BATMAN FRIDGE MAGNET**. Put it on your kitchen fridge or any metal surface, and watch Batman fly!

This month's first story is very dark indeed! Batman meets with the evil Rā's al Ghūl who tries to make the Dark Knight agree with his warped sense of justice in *Demon Justice*.

Some thieves are in for a big surprise in the story *When the Going Gets Tough*. Batgirl jumps into action at the scene of a robbery and shows what she's made of.



In the story *Race Around the World*, Superman and the Flash are racing against each other. But on their way, they team up to stop various crimes around the planet.

These stories and much more await you on the following pages—so read on.



I LOVE TO READ

BATMAN™

3 DEMON JUSTICE

A story in which Rā's al Ghūl, one of Batman's most evil opponents, is out to lure Batman to his evil ways.

8 WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

When Barbara Gordon finds herself at the scene of a crime, she puts on her Batgirl costume and gets into action!

12 POSTER

A poster of Batgirl and Robin for you to hang on your wall.

13 BATMAN WORKBOOK

An eight-page pull-out workbook full of puzzles and games especially for you.

22 COLOURING

An exciting page for you to colour in.

23 VILLAIN PROFILE

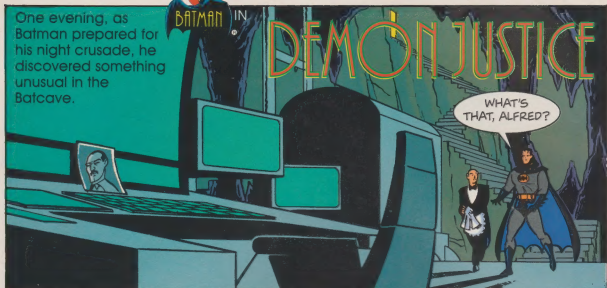
Rā's al Ghūl is this month's villain.

24 RACE AROUND THE WORLD

Who's faster: Superman or the Flash? Find out the answer in this action-packed story!

30 DYNAMIC DISPATCHES

Two pages filled with pictures, photos and letters sent in by you, our readers.



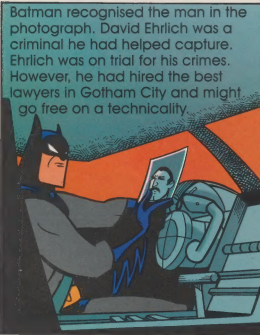
Rā's al Ghūl was a twisted leader whose goal was to rule the planet.



With his brilliant mind, vast resources and army of fanatical followers, Rā's was a madman who could very well destroy all the civilised world.

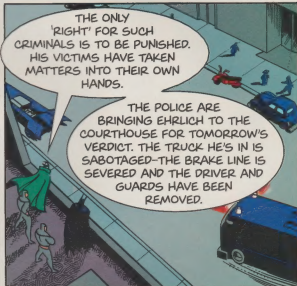


Batman recognised the man in the photograph. David Ehrlich was a criminal he had helped capture. Ehrlich was on trial for his crimes. However, he had hired the best lawyers in Gotham City and might go free on a technicality.

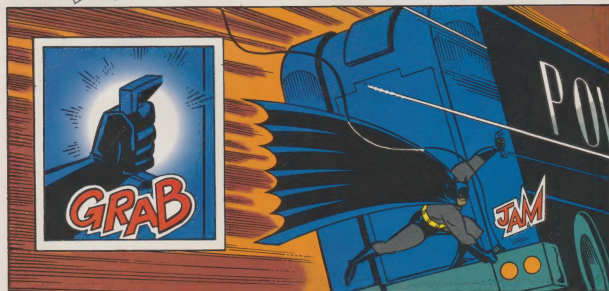
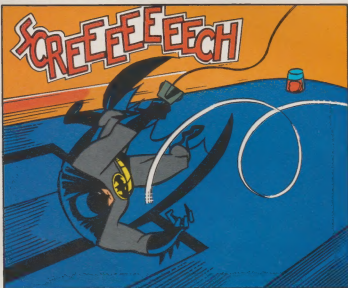
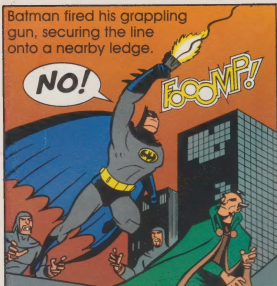


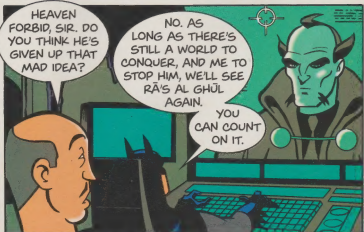
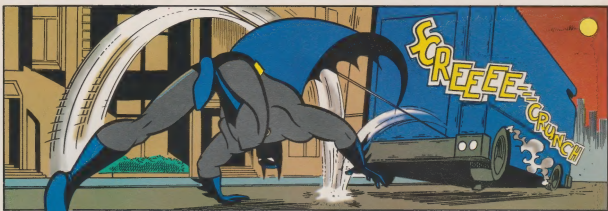
RĀ'S WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD. WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH A SMALL-TIMER LIKE DAVID EHRLICH?





Batman fired his grappling gun, securing the line onto a nearby ledge.





The bad guys learn that Batgirl gets going...

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

The scream stuck in the burglar's throat as a rush of air hit him. His stomach lurched as they fell faster and faster. He squeezed his eyes tightly shut, blacking out the Gotham City streets sweeping sixty feet beneath them. For the first time ever, he prayed for a police car, because then the nightmare journey—tucked under Batman's arm as the Dark Knight swung above the city—would end.

On the ground, two policemen were wrestling a mugger into their patrol car when Batman and his captive dropped out of the night sky to land beside them.

"Another one for us?" asked an officer.

"Attempted burglary—penthouse suite, Hamilton Towers," replied the Dark Knight, handing over the quivering criminal. Just then, a clanging alarm rang out. "Gotham Bank, two blocks west!" declared Batman, firing a line from his grappling gun. "I'll deal with it!"

"Night-time in Gotham," sighed one cop to his partner. "Crime capital of the world!"

Across the city, Mulden sat behind the wheel of a large, unmarked van with a radio in his hand. "Scout to Mulden," hissed the radio. "He's hooked—Batman's at the bank!"

Mulden acknowledged, spun around in his seat and yelled "Go! Go!" to the two men crouched in the rear of the van. The well-drilled unit leapt from the vehicle and sprinted across the road to the padlocked gates of the Gotham Art Gallery. As one of the gang applied bolt-cutters to the lock, Mulden glanced up and down the street. Empty, or so he thought. He had not seen the lone, red-haired girl dash into the alleyway as the gang had leapt out of the car.

The broken lock skittered across the ground as the gang charged through the gallery gates. Seconds later, Mulden and his men were inside the security annex. The guard within offered sneers rather than resistance.

"Every picture in the gallery is alarmed," he stated. "Touch one, and the cops—maybe even Batman—will be here in minutes!"

"Maybe," agreed Mulden, tying up the



guard, "...eventually! But we've got this job timed to the nano-second. We won't even be wasting time asking you to turn off the alarm system," he growled, stretching thick tape across the guard's mouth to silence him. "We'll be long gone by the time any cop or caped freak shows up!"

"Oh no you won't!" thought Barbara Gordon, listening outside the security annex. She flicked up her red hair and adjusted her cape. She had dashed into the alleyway earlier, thinking that something fishy was going on. Barbara had finished changing into her Batgirl costume. Now she was ready for action!

The thieves moved swiftly through the art gallery to a staircase at one end. It rose in wide, square flights of steps past several large windows. 'The Orchid', a two meter tall painting and the most valuable work of art in the gallery, was on the second floor. Mulden led his men right to it.

"Cover your ears," he smirked, reaching for the picture. The instant his hands touched the frame a loud, piercing alarm began to echo throughout the gallery.

"I may not be a full-time crimefighter like Batman, but I've got to do something!" thought Batgirl, as she scaled the outside of the building with her grappling line. "These guys are working against the clock. Let's see if I can stall them till help arrives."

Gripping her line tightly, Batgirl kicked herself away from the building. As she began to swing back, three dark shapes became visible on the stairs through a large window.

Batgirl crashed feet first through the glass. The arc of her swing carried her into one of the gang, knocking him backwards over the balustrade at the side of the stairs. He landed with a heavy thump on the ground floor. Batgirl released her line, twisted acrobatically in the air, and dropped lightly on the steps leading to the first floor.

"If you want out with that picture," she called up to Mulden, standing on the flight of stairs above, "you and the two stooges have to get past me."



"It's just some scrawny girl!" snarled Mulden, grabbing the oversized painting. "Let's move!"

The thieves charged at Batgirl, who leapt down the remaining stairs to the first floor landing. To one side there was a round waste paper bin with a metal ashtray dish on the top, and a large rubber plant in a pot full of gravel. Batgirl scooped up a handful of gravel with the ashtray. Then she suddenly turned, showering her pursuers with the gravel. They paused, ducking and raising their arms and hands. In that split-second, Batgirl switched the ashtray to her throwing hand, took aim and launched the metal dish at the nearest thug. He never saw what hit him. He just felt a dizzying pain at his temple before slumping groggily to the ground.



"Two down. One to go!" Batgirl taunted, descending the next flight of stairs. Half way down, she paused to glance over the balustrade, then vaulted over it before Mulden closed in. She rolled to lessen the impact when she landed on the ground floor, and glanced about in search of her next improvised weapon. All she saw was an information desk with a computer.

The first thug to be nailed by Batgirl had got up and rejoined Mulden. The thieves turned onto the last flight of stairs. "Where'd she go?" demanded the thug, unable to locate Batgirl as he scoured the gloom below. "Forget her!" ordered Mulden, still clutching the painting. "She's cost us enough time already! Just keep moving!"

Carrying the enormous painting down the stairs, Mulden had only a limited field of vision. He never saw the length of computer cable Batgirl had placed across the bottom step. Lurking in the recess beneath the stairs, she yanked the cable tight at the last moment, turning it into a tripwire. Mulden's pace sent him pitching forward over it.

One side of the picture frame hit the ground just as the villain's chin crunched hard on one of its corners. The effect was like a knock-out punch, putting Mulden out cold. The tripwire felled his goon too, who landed on top of him.

"Why wait for help?" Batgirl asked herself, encouraged by her success so far. "I can wrap this up alone!" She dashed forward, intent on using the cable to tie up the three crooks. A hand grabbed Batgirl's ankle and pulled. She hit the ground hard. One of

the thugs had come to, and the ugly snarl Batgirl saw on his face told her he wanted revenge. She tried

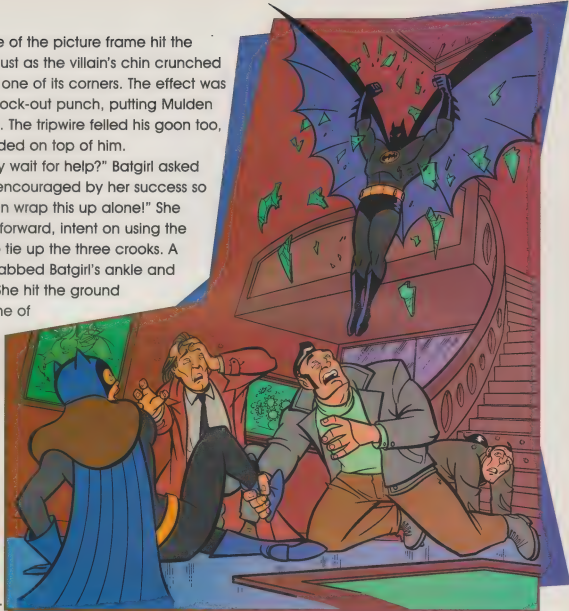
to kick away from him, but his grip on her ankle was vice-tight.

"Payback time!" hissed one of the others as he found his feet and closed menacingly on the fledgling crimefighter.

The sound of glass shattering above made everyone look up. A dark shape swooped down the stairwell—a dark, bat-like shape. Cape spread wide to slow his descent, Batman landed close to Batgirl. "Payback time it is!" said Batgirl.

The three thugs attempted to run for it, but after a brief flurry of capes, gloved hands and Batlines, they found themselves tethered together. "Nice work," remarked Batman, securing the bonds around the three men. He turned to thank Batgirl. Because of all the criminal activity that night, the thieves might have got away but for her.

Seeing Batgirl darting out through the gallery doors, Batman just smiled to himself and thought, "Now who does that remind me of?"



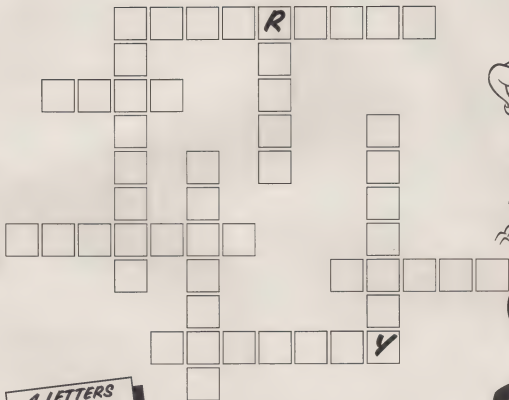
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BATMANTM WORKBOOK

FIT THEM IN

All the words in the boxes appear in the story *When the Going Gets Tough*. See if you can fit them into the grid of squares.



4 LETTERS
LOCK

8 LETTERS
SECURITY

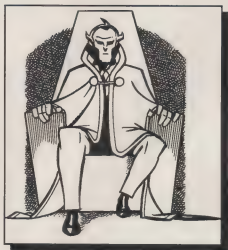
5 LETTERS
RADIO
FRAME

9 LETTERS
STAIRWELL

7 LETTERS
GALLERY
PICTURE
BURGLAR
ASHTRAY



RAS WORDS!



Rā's al Ghūl has a very unusual name. But the letters RAS are used in many everyday words. Using the clues below, fill in the spaces to complete the words which all contain the letters RAS. When you have done that, find the five differences between the two pictures of Rā's al Ghūl.

1. Green plant on lawns.
__ RAS __

2. You rub things out with it.
__ RAS __

4. This little fruit is great
with cream!
RAS _____

3. A small animal that lives in
and harms a bigger animal.
__ RAS ____

5. A yellow coloured metal.
__ RAS __

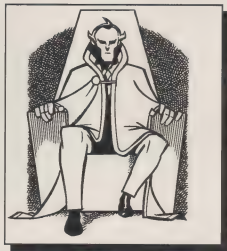
6. A skin irritation.
RAS __

7. A naughty child.
RAS ____

8. A short group of words.
__ RAS __

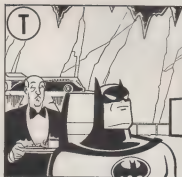
9. American word for 'rubbish'.
__ RAS __

10. A firm hold or grip.
__ RAS __



ALL MIXED UP

These pictures have been taken from this month's comic strip story. Put them in the **correct order** (1-6) and write the letter from each picture in the boxes below to find a word used in the story.



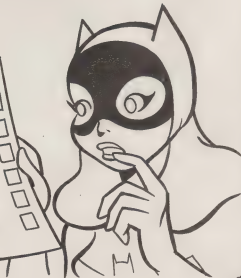
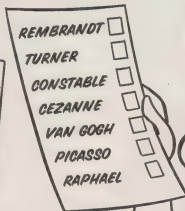
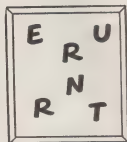
1	2	3	4	5	6

COLOURING



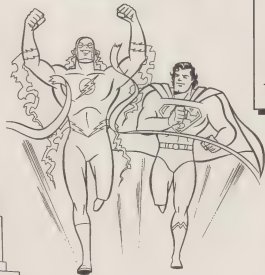
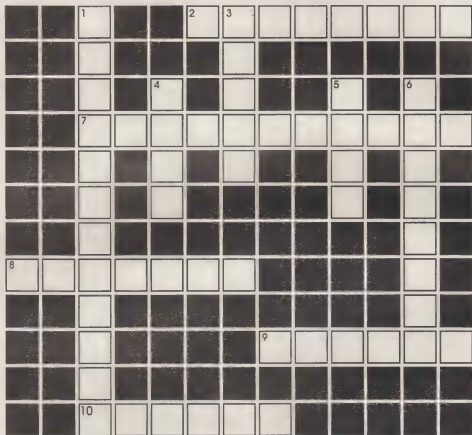
FAMOUS ARTISTS

When Batgirl was in the Gotham City Art Museum she saw many paintings by famous artists. Below are some frames containing the names of some of those artists. Using Batgirl's list below, try to unscramble the letters in each frame.



RACE CROSSWORD!

If you have read the story *Race Around The World*, you will find this crossword easy. Simply write the answers to the clues in the correct boxes.



ACROSS

2. The ocean Flash ran over!
7. Lois Lane works for this newspaper.
8. The prize money was for this.
9. Superman and Flash are both super —.
10. Famous tower in Paris.

DOWN

1. This villain's first name sounds like a type of shoe!
3. Capital city of Japan.
4. A special place where money is kept.
5. TV reporter, Linda's last name.
6. The race started in this city.

DOT TO DOT

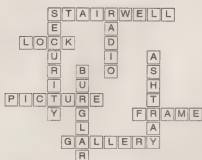
This scene taken from this month's story, *Race Around The World*.
Take a pencil and join the dots to complete the picture.



ANSWERS

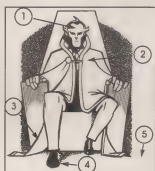


FIT THEM IN



RAS WORDS

1. **GRASS**
2. **ERASER**
3. **PARASITE**
4. **RASPBERRY**
5. **BRASS**
6. **RASH**
7. **RASCAL**
8. **PHRASE**
9. **TRASH**
10. **GRASP**

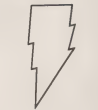
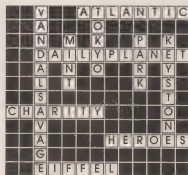


ALL MIXED UP
The word is **GUILTY**.

FAMOUS ARTISTS

VAN GOGH • CONSTABLE • TURNER
RAPHAEL • CEZANNE
PICASSO •
REMBRANDT

RACY CROSSWORD!





COLOURING

Colour in this great picture of Batman, Robin and Batgirl swinging into action!



Rā's al Ghūl

VILLAIN PROFILE



The Demon's Head

Occupation:

International eco-terrorist

Family Relatives:

Talia (daughter)

Base of Operations:

Mobile

Height: 6 feet 2"

Weight: 95 Kilos

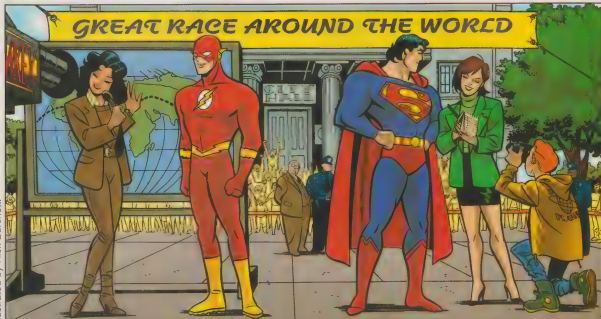
Eyes: Green

Hair: Grey with white streaks

Psychological profile:

Rā's al Ghūl's goal is to make the world a perfect place. A place where there is no crime, pollution, disease... and where he is the absolute master over everyone. Rā's is able to extend his life, and is now hundreds of years old. Rā's respects Batman's strength and courage. Even though Batman has vowed to stop Rā's' evil plans, Rā's tries to convince the Dark Knight to join his crusade.

RACE AROUND THE WORLD



It was the day of the Great Race Around the World between Superman and the Flash. A crowd gathered at the starting line in front of Keystone City Hall. Lois Lane of the *Daily Planet* talked to Superman. TV reporter Linda Park announced to her TV audience that people could call in to pledge money which would go to the winner's favourite charity.

The Flash told Linda he was running for a charity that helps the homeless. Linda asked if Flash thought he would win.



I DON'T KNOW. SUPERMAN IS THE STRONGEST HERO ON EARTH.

Meanwhile, Lois Lane found out that Superman was running for the World Hunger Fund.



I'M NOT SO SURE I'LL WIN, LOIS. THEY SAY FLASH IS THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE.

BUT I'LL DO MY BEST ON FOOT!

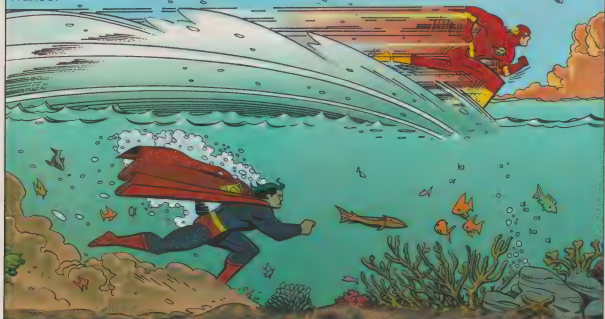


The race started as TV cameras broadcast the contest all over the world. At first Superman and the Flash were neck and neck. But at the New York State line, Flash took the lead.

One of the people watching the race was the villain, Vandal Savage. He planned to rob the Keystone City Mint while the heroes were running the race.

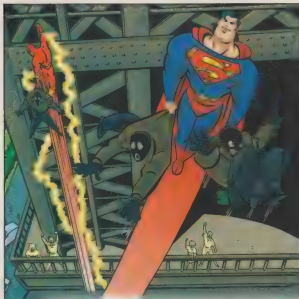


Meanwhile, Flash reached the Atlantic Ocean. He was going so fast he ran right over the waves. Even with his amazing powers, Superman could not do that! So, holding his breath, he ran along the ocean floor. The heroes were on their way to France.





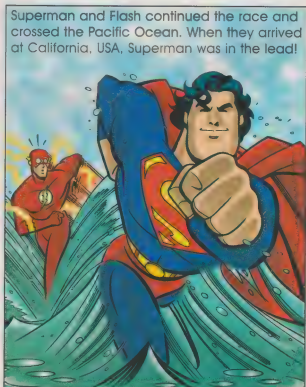
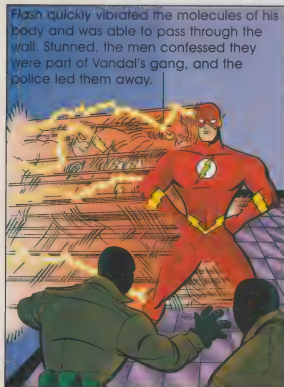
Soon, Superman and Flash approached the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Superman's telescopic vision revealed trouble.



The two heroes burst into action. Flash and Superman captured the thugs. They were unaware that the thugs were Vandal's men. After turning the criminals over to the police, the heroes continued their race.

The super heroes left Europe. They raced until they got to Japan. In Tokyo, a huge explosion caused a building along their route to collapse.







At that moment, Vandal Savage and his gang were at the Keystone City Mint. They had tied up the guards and were using laser rifles to break into the vault where the money was kept.



The thieves were so busy stuffing their bags with money, they did not see a guard break free and press the alarm bell.

Back at the race, Flash had an amazing burst of speed and crossed the finish line first. Before Superman could congratulate Flash, his superhearing picked up the sound of the mint's alarm.





The two heroes ran straight to the mint and quickly captured the criminals.



Back at the finish line, Flash and Superman congratulated each other on a job well done.



THE END

DYNAMIC DISPATCHES

SORRY WE CAN'T PUT
ALL OF THE MAIL YOU SEND US ONTO
THESE PAGES. BUT KEEP SENDING IT IN
AND LETTING US KNOW ABOUT YOUR
FAVOURITE STORIES AND CHARACTERS,
AND WE'LL KEEP PRINTING AS MANY OF
YOUR LETTERS AS WE CAN
IN EACH ISSUE.



BY MATTHEW DALE



LYNDSY & JOE PEARSON
NEWPORT



MARK BETTS
WESTHUMBLE



THE JOKER



THE
PENGUIN



TWO-FACE



THE RIDDLER

BY CONNOR LAMBE
CARROWDORE



ROSS GRAHAM
DERBYS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR LETTER, JOKE,
PICTURE OR PHOTOGRAPH PRINTED IN
I LOVE TO READ BATMAN, SEND IT TO:

THE EDITOR
C/O I LOVE TO READ BATMAN
DYNAMIC DISPATCHES
THE REDAN COMPANY
139 KING STREET
LONDON W6 9JG

SORRY WE CANNOT WRITE BACK TO YOU
INDIVIDUALLY BUT WE WILL PRINT AS MANY OF YOUR
LETTERS AS WE CAN. PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE
YOUR NAME, AGE, ADDRESS AND SAE IF YOU WANT
YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS ONLY RETURNED.

DRENDON CRISP
ABERDEEN



IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

It's a case of
Stolen

Identify when
Clayface tries
to sneak out
of Gotham
City! Aiming
to start a new
life of crime
elsewhere, he
finds himself,
instead, doing good right where he is!



We meet Wonder Woman again as
she returns in the story, *Seeds of
War*. The ancient god of war, Ares,
uses some school children as tools in
a conflict with Wonder Woman. The
Amazon Princess must come to their
rescue in a story with a lesson for all

In *The Terror of Two-Face*, the twisted
criminal commits a double crime. Not
only does he steal a precious two-
headed dragon statue, but he
kidnaps Commissioner Gordon as
well. Batman and
Batgirl put their
heads
together to
pursue the
criminal,
retrieve the
statue, and
save the
Commissioner.



PLUS

BATMAN STICKERS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the **10** differences between these two pictures of Batman battling with Rā's al Ghūl?



Answers: 1. Rā's' hair. 2. Rā's' coat buttons. 3. Batman's sword handle. 4. Rā's' cape goes in front/behind his leg. 5. The tip of Rā's' cape behind Batman. 6. Batman's boot. 7. Rā's' cape hooks. 8. The part of Batman's cape below his arm. 9. Rā's' sword. 10. Batman's mouth.

